

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /081 W

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P R 072140Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 962

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF DETAINEES; OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS

1. SUMMARY. SENIOR GOC OFFICIAL MOST INTIMATELY INVOLVED STATES THAT PROGRAM OF RELEASE OF DETAINEES HELD ON INTERNAL SECURITY GROUNDS IN CONTRAST TO PERSONS ALREADY SENTENCED OR THOSE CHARGED AND AWAITING TRIAL) INTO EXILE IS READY TO BEGIN MOMENTARILY WITH 100 PERSONS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY 100 A WEEK TO TOTAL OF 500. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY INTERIOR ENRIQUE MONTERO NOV 7 TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOC IS ABOUT READY TO RELEASE INTO EXILE FIRST 100 DETAINEES UNDER PROGRAM LAUNCHED BY CHIEF OF STATE GEN. INOCHET'S SEPT 11 ANNIVERSARY SPEECH. THIS LIST IS ALMOST COMPLETELY PROCESSED. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ABOUT 100 MORE A WEEK UP TO PRESENT TARGET OF 500. GOC ACTUALLY MIGHT HAVE PROBLEM COMING UP WITH THAT MANY, SINCE SO MANY DETAINEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED TO STAY WITHIN CHILE. MONTERO NOTED THAT HIS AIDE HAD MET DAY BEFORE WITH REPS OF INTERNATIONAL AND CHILEAN ORGANIZATIONS CHARGED WITH ARRANGING PLACES OF EXILE, IN ORDER TO WORK OUT FINAL DETAILS.

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3. MONTERO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RELEASE PROGRAM HAS MOVED

SLOWLY. SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED HAD BEEN SLOW IN MOVING (TOOK ICRC TWO WEEKS TO GET MESSAGE TO USSR), AND IT HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND COUNTRIES WILLING TO TAKE EXILES ("VENEZUELA AGREED TO 200, THEN WAVERED; MEXICO AND ARGENTINA WENT BACK AND FORTH," ETC). GOC ALSO HAD TO WAIT REASONABLE TIME FOR USSR AND CUBA TO REPLY TO CHILEAN CHALLENGE.

4. MONTERO WAS VAGUE ON RELEASE OF PERSONS ALREADY CON- DEMNED, AS ALSO FORECAST IN PINOCHET SPEECH, BUT SAID THAT PROGRAM WILL GO FORWARD AS WELL. THOSE CHARGED AND AWAITING TRIAL WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TRIAL IS OVER BEFORE THEIR RELEASE CAN BE CONSIDERED.

MONTERO REFERRED AS EXAMPLE TO PINOCHET'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT SEVEN CHILEANS OF FRENCH DESCENT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GO TO FRANCE; SAID GOC HAD LET SOME GO IMMEDIATELY BUT HAD HAD TO TRY THE THREE WHOSE CASES HAD BEEN PENDING. TRIAL HAD ENDED NOVEMBER 6; PRESIDENTIAL PARDON HAS BEEN GRANTED, AND THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY. MONTERO ADDED THAT NUMBER OF PERSONS AWAITING TRIAL OR ALREADY SENTENCED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE EMERGENCY POWERS WAS SMALLER THEN GENERALLY BELIEVED -- PERHAPS 5,000.

5. ON SENIOR ALLENDE LEADERS NOW DETAINED AT RITOQUE, MONTERO SAID PINOCHET HIMSELF DECIDES ON THEIR CASES. HE IS NOW CONSIDERING FOUR OR FIVE OF THEM.

6. MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) IS ON THE RUN AND HARDLY CAPABLE OF ACTION. MANY PEOPLE WERE PICKED UP AND INTERROGATED IN PAST MONTH, BUT MOST WERE RELEASED AND ONLY FEW HAVE BEEN HELD.

7. ASKED ABOUT BIZARRE CASE OF DEAD WOMAN, MIR MEMBER, FOUND IN GROUNDS OF ITALIAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE NOV 3 (SANTIAGO 6703), MONTERO DISCOUNTED STATEMENTS BY ITALIANS THAT BODY HAD BEEN THROWN OVER THE WALL BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. SAID CIVIL POLICE (INVESTIGACIONES--HE

DID NOT MENTION INTELLIGENCE SERVICES) HAD STRONGLY ASSURED HIM ON THIS POINT AND THAT MIR ASYLEES IN RESIDENCE HAVE WAYS TO COME AND GO.

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8. COMMENT. ASSUMING THAT DETAINEE PROGRAM IS NOW ALMOST READY TO GO, GOC HAS HANDLED IT WITH APPALLINGLY POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS SENSE. IN ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE OF MOVEMENT, MANY OBSERVERS HERE HAVE BEGUN TO ASSUME IT A FRAUD.

9. FIGURES MONTERO QUOTES APPEAR REALISTIC. WE HAVE BELIEVE THAT TOTAL WAS IN 5,000-6,000 RANGE. SUCH FIGURES,

OF COURSE, DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THOSE UNDER INITIAL
INTERROGATION, OR INTERROGATED AND RELEASED.

10. MONTERO DID NOT APPEAR TO EXPECT EARLY RELEASE OF
SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SENIOR EX-LEADERS DETAINED IN RITOQUE.
ADDITIONAL INDICATION IS RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS OF IMPENDING
CIVIL TRIALS FOR SEVERAL RADICAL PARTY LEADERS AMONG GROUP
ON CHARGES OF WHITE COLLAR CRIMES (TAX EVASION, MISURE OF
PUBLIC FUNDS, ETC.), PLUS CONTINUED GOC INTEREST IN BRINGING
EX-FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA TO TRIAL ON SIMILAR CHARGE.
POPPER

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